

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on November 13, 2003. Claims 1-31 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Preliminarily, Applicants wish to express appreciation for the Examiner's assistance in identifying allowable subject matter. As noted in the Action, claims 16-31 are allowed, and claims 6-15 are allowable.


Claims 1-5 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 3, and 5 of copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/606,925. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

However, in the interest of moving this application into condition for allowance, a Terminal Disclaimer is included herewith. Reconsideration and allowance are therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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